

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 12. 1712.

I Am not at all to seek for a Reason why some People are so Angry, when I affirm, that the Confederates carrying on the War without us, will necessarily Embroil *Britain* with them, and bring on a War between Us and them — The Reason is, because, for other Designs, they would fain have the Confederates carry on the War, and they would have the Consequences conceal'd, least other People should not be of the same Mind: *But let them be at rest upon that Point:* The Confederates will not carry on the War without us, they know better; the *Dutch* may, and they are in the Right of it, put themselves into such a Posture, as to let the *French* King see it is worth his while to make larger Offers; but to say they will push on the War, Ruin *France*, Recover *Spain*, and do all those mighty Things the Imperial Generals talk of, you may talk as you think fit, and please yourselves with vain Schemes, but this Mountain never will bring forth, no, not a Mouse — The *Dutch* know too well, the Effects of pushing Things that length; they know that *Britain* now holds the Ballance, and will turn the Scale, and that which Side soever pushes to Extremity,

mity, must split upon this Rock, must have the *British* full in their Way; it is not that I desire it, but the Nature of the Thing is such, it cannot be otherwise.

O, says our Gasconading Gentlemen, Prince *Eugene* will beat the *French*, and force him to give up the *Spanish* Monarchy in spite of all you can do— Suppose it now, to grant your Argument, and if he can do that, *What may he not do after it?* If Prince *Eugene* is such a desperate Body, that he will beat the *French* and Recover *Spain*, ay, and beat Us too— He may then Conquer the whole World; and this is the very Thing I am saying, that for this Reason we shall be forc'd, since we are already divided from his Master, and have disgusted him so much as some say, to prevent his coming that length.

Is it fit any single Prince in the World should arrive at Power enough to Subdue all the rest? No, not *Britain* itself, all the rest ought to Arm against us, and pull us down, if we aim'd at it: And I affirm, should Prince *Eugene*, or any Prince else, at the Head of the Imperial Army Reduce *France* and Recover *Spain*, and the *Dutch* join, they are able to Conquer the whole Universe; and will a Prospect of this suffer any Nation Concern'd as we are in the Peace of *Europe*, to sit still? — No, the *Dutch* know it cannot be, they would not sit still in the same Case, and therefore unless our Hands can be found other Employment, you may depend up-

on it, the *Dutch* see so much of what I call'd a Necessity of a War with *England*, if they go on, that they will never make the Attempt.

The *French* King has now put *Dunkirk* into our Hands, some have said we have got the *Maidenhead* of his Vertue, and that he has, for the first time, kept his Parole, but let that alone to the Sons of Scandal to be merry with; By this Action, the King of *France* has put the Ballance into the Queen's Hands, and the Peace may, for the future, be of her own making — Nay, it will be of her Majesty's own making, for whatever the Queen says must be done, the King of *France* in a manner, must do: I know some think the Confederates have some Advantage by the going off of the Auxiliary Troops, and by the *British* Troops being dispers'd at such remote distance, and in so many Places; but should the Councils that prevail for this Campaign, think fit to talk of it another Year, I doubt they will see another Face of Things, and this makes me say, as before, that I expect a stop to all these furious Measures, from the Wisdom and Prudence of the *Dutch*.

At the same time, I expect and hope from the Prudence of the *British* Counsels, that whatever other Demands the *Dutch* have to make, which are Reasonable to be granted, her Majesty will Concern herself, so far for their Interest, as to procure them the best Conditions she can, and to obtain for them every Thing that is Just and Reasonable:

sonable : This is the Way on both Sides, to prevent the Fate of *Europe*, to Reduce Exorbitant Power on one Hand, without raising it on the other ; and this may still make the Union between *Great Britain* and the *States General* more strong and lasting than ever ; this would make the Protestant Interest Superior still to the rest of *Europe*, and keep off from us the Apprehensions, either of a Religious War Abroad, or a *Popish* Invader at Home, and this therefore is what good Men pray for, and wise Men wish for ; and this is what is not only *easy* to be, but *probable*, and I doubt not still will be the Issue of all these Divisions, if the Divisions among ourselves do not fatally prevent it.

What those People propose, that are against this Conclusion, who would have the *Dutch* reject all the Schemes for such an Accommodation, and would have them bid Us Defiance, and carry on the War without Us ; and what they imagine will be the Consequence of such Things, I know not ; neither can the Whymfie of our standing Neuter, in Case of a War, be supported by any manner of Rational Consequences ; let them look back and tell us, when did ever *France* and the *States* fight, and *England* stand Neuter ? — The late King *William*, whose Opinion is now out of Date among Us, always said it was impossible, and Sir *William Temple* gives us a very good Account of it on another Occasion ; when the late King *William*, then Prince of *Orange*, was in *England*, Courting his *Queen*,

then the *Princess Mary*, and finding the Court not dealing Candidly with him, and the whole Matter breaking off, the Prince said to Sir *William Temple*, “ That he resolved to be gone Home in two “ Days, if the King continued of “ the Mind he was then in, &c. ” But that before he went, the King must choose how they should live here after, for he was sure it must be either like the greatest Friends or the greatest Enemies. *Vid. Temp. Mem. pag. 294.* It cannot be otherwise, the Interests of *Great Britain* were always so interwoven one with another, that it is impossible they should take opposite Measures, and not fall out ; if they cease to act in Concert, they must act against one another — And this made me say, and still makes me say, that if the *British* make Peace without the *Dutch*, or the *Dutch* make War without the *British*, they will fall foul of one another, by Consequence it cannot be otherwise.

Let those then that would not have a War with the *Dutch*, consider of it, and reflect how they prompt the *Dutch* to carry on this War without us, and let those who are tender of the Protestant Succession, remember, that nothing can bring Us into so precarious a Posture, as a War with the *Dutch* ; let not such think to excuse themselves, by laying the Blame on the Ministry, and upon the Changing the Ministry : Tho’ that may have been a Cause one Way, themselves will be the Cause another Way, and what is it to us who we are Ruin’d by, if we are Ruin’d ? The

The Alterations at Court, the Change of the Ministry, the Measures taken since the Negotiation with *France*, these are Things we Complain of, and do not like; but if we are Ruin'd by these, we have nothing to blame ourselves for; what they have done, we cannot help, but if because of these Steps, which we call Ruinous, we will go and take yet more Ruinous Steps, to make that Ruin unavoidable, we shall have small Comfort of the Fruits of it—A Woman has a bad Husband, and he is Idle, Drunken, and Lazy, and spends the Money faster than they get it; the Woman uses all Persuasions to reclaim him, but finding it to no purpose, grows desperate, and resolves to spend as fast as he, and so turns Mad, Vicious, as bad as he; what is the Consequence? But that both are Ruin'd more certainly, and much sooner, pray, then, Who is it destroys the Family? The Man begins it, but the Woman, who by Prudence and Temper should have mov'd him to Reform, or at least, might have restrain'd his Extravagancies, she makes the Destruction unavoidable to them both.

This I take to be our Case; even supposing all the Complaints against the Publick Measures to be just; the Ministry have done so and so, call it as bad as you please, 'tis none of my Work to Answer what I have no Hand in doing; but *the thing is done*, Is this the Way to retrieve that Blow, to desire the Confederates to carry on a Separate War, and so Embroilus with our Friends,

which is the shortest Way to the Destruction of both?

There is one Objection remains, viz, That it is a Mistake to lay the Quarrel with the *Dutch* here, for that the War with the *Dutch*, and the bringing in the Pretender, are resolv'd on already, and the Ministry have taken their Measures for both.

I won't cross the Gentlemen so much, as to deny their Affirmative.—Since proving of Negatives is none of my Work, perhaps it may be so, that *as has been hinted*, the Queen, and the Ministry, and the Party are all *Jacobites*, have Resolv'd to bring in the Pretender, and to go on a War with the *Dutch*; as the only Way to bring it to pass.—As the Man said, that was told a Horse was to run a Race with a Millstone in his Mouth; *as may be so*; but if I prove that this cannot be, unless the Queen and Ministry are perfectly Demented and Distracted, if I prove it is not their Interest, as they are now Circumstanced, and that their Measures appear another Way, then I prove it cannot be, and that is as much as can be desir'd.

Yet, if this were really so, I should still press against the *Dutch* standing out from the Peace, for these Reasons.

1. Because all pretence of Quarrel with them would be thereby taken away, and if they will do it, it must be a barefaced open Breach, without any Pretence.
2. Because they (the *Dutch*) would be in the better Condition then, to prevent the Designs of the Pretender, having no other Broil upon the Coast; no more Irons in the fire, and nothing to do but to attend it. *But of this part hereafter.*